

CoCoRaHS March 2009

March came in like a cold and snowy lion across much of Tennessee over the weekend but...can Spring be too far off.? You all did a wonderful job documenting the snow with some amounts over 10 inches reported. Don't know about you but I'm looking forward to warmer weather and some wild flowers jumping up. Spring rains should begin across Tennessee very soon and each of your reports will become part of the historic record for 2009.

Severe Weather Awareness Week was last week across the state. Each of us should take a few minutes to review our preparation plans, make sure we have a good way to receive warnings and weather information, and share this with our families. Check your NOAA Weather Radios and make sure the batteries are fresh and the frequency is correct. It's a good time to review how to do an Intense Precipitation Report on the CoCoRaHS web site. Your reports are sent directly to the National Weather Service operational computers where duty forecasters can use your information to justify and verify warnings.

CoCoRaHS is holding the annual March Madness again this year. This is a competition between states to see who can recruit the most new observers during the month. If you know anyone who might be interested in joining CoCoRaHS this would be a great time to tell them about the program.

We'd like to start something new this month with Tennessee CoCoRaHS. If you'd like to share a picture of yourself alongside of your rain gage please email it to ralph.troutman@noaa.gov. We'd like to be able to include at least one picture with every eNewsletter. (Special thanks to Bill Jones, TN-RB-3, for the great idea!) Please identify yourself along with your station number.

CoCoRaHS has generated a report on its water year from October 1, 2007 to September 30, 2008. It is a comparison by state of the number of sites with complete (no missed days) water years. Here in the Volunteer State we had 52 sites that had complete reports. This ranked us third behind Missouri and Colorado. Of those 52 sites, TN-RD-12 had the lowest total precipitation (37.29"), TN-BN-1 had the greatest amount (69.66"), and TN-UC-4 had the greatest amount of snow (23.2"). You can find the report at:
http://www.cocorahs.org/content.aspx?page=wy_summary08

The monthly precipitation maps are available at : <http://www.srh.noaa.gov/ohx/dad/GIS/gisindex>

Something else new this month, the Weather Question of the Month. This month's question has to do with precipitation: what are *hygroscopic nuclei*? The answer from the AMS Glossary of Meteorology, A particle that acts as center for water condensation at relative humidity below, at, and above saturation (Without hygroscopic nuclei we wouldn't have any type of precipitation.)

If you have a question you'd like to see answered in the eNewsletter send it to ralph.troutman@noaa.gov and we'll pick one for next month.

Thanks for another great month of CoCoRaHS!



Special thanks to Doug Jacques (TN-ML-2) for the picture.